

### **Remarks**

The specification has been amended to change the title and recite that the instant application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728, filed March 28, 2000, which is a division of prior application U.S. Serial No. 09/227,944, filed January 11, 1999, which is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of prior application U.S. Serial No. 08/913,900, filed February 26, 1998, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 371, claiming benefit, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, from PCT/EP96/01568. Entry of this amendment will cause the specification to properly recite the lineage of the application.

### **Claims 1 to 25 Have Previously Been Allowed in the Parent Application**

Instant claims 1 to 25 correspond to allowed claims 25, 27 to 29, 34 to 38, 51 to 54, 66 to 69, and 82 to 89, respectively, of U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728 (the parent application), which is currently on appeal. The instant claims 1 to 25 had been allowed during prosecution of U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728 and are herewith presented to obtain a patent to the allowed claims while the appeal of U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728 is pending (accordingly, claims 25, 27 to 29, 34 to 38, 51 to 54, 66 to 69, and 82 to 89 of U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728 have been cancelled).

Instant claims 1 to 25, in being allowed, have been determined to be patentably distinct from the rejected claims still pending in U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728, and therefore no double patenting issue over U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728 is involved.

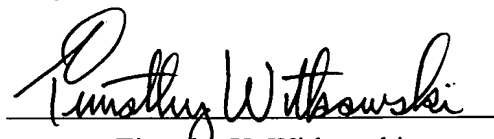
Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are allowable and therefore solicit a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims.

### **Information Disclosure Statement**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the references listed in the accompanying Forms 1449A/PTO and 1449B/PTO. It is requested that the above-described information be considered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). All of the references listed on the accompanying Forms 1449A/PTO and 1449B/PTO were cited by either the Examiner or the applicants in the file of the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/536,728; grandparent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/227,944; or the great-grandparent application, U.S. Serial No. 08/913,900, each which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in advancing prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy X. Witkowski", written over a horizontal line.

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